

Section 1: Population, Family, and Neighborhood

Child Population Characteristics

PF 1.1 Number of Children in the United States

The demographic composition of the population has implications for the allocation of goods and services. This includes decisions about devoting resources to schools, child care, care for the elderly, and specific types of health care. The larger the proportions that children make of the *dependent population*, the more resources need to be provided for services that they require, such as immunizations and public education.

In 2000, there were 72.0 million children under age 18 in the United States. This number is expected to increase to 83.2 million by 2030. The total number of children under age 18 has increased by 52 percent since 1950. Most of that increase occurred during the “baby boom” years of the 1950s and early 1960s, when record numbers of children were born in these prosperous post-World War II years. During the 1970s and 1980s, the number of children initially declined and then grew slowly. Beginning in 1990, the rate of growth in the number of children increased, although not as rapidly as during the baby boom. These trends gave rise to the terms “baby bust” or “birth dearth,” and “echo baby boom.”

In 2000, there were approximately equal numbers of children—between 23 and 25 million—in each age group 0-5, 6-11, and 12-17 years of age. In 1950 and 1960, there were more children under age 6 than there were ages 6-11 or 12-17, reflecting the large number of babies being born during these years.

Table PF 1.1

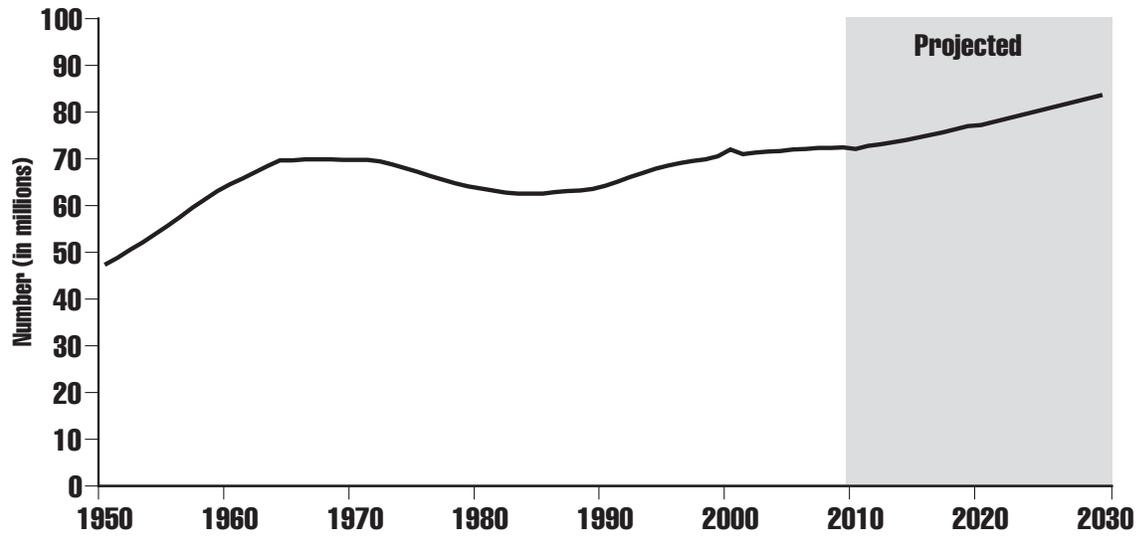
Number (in millions) of children under age 18 in the United States, by age: Selected years, 1950-2000, and projected, 2010-2030

							Projected		
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
All children	47.3	64.5	69.8	63.7	64.2	72.0	72.1	77.2	83.2
Under age 6	19.1	24.3	20.9	19.6	22.5	23.6	24.0	26.3	27.8
Ages 6-11	15.3	21.8	24.6	20.8	21.6	24.8	23.4	25.6	27.5
Ages 12-17	12.9	18.4	24.3	23.3	20.1	23.7	24.6	25.2	27.9

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, Nos. 311, 519, 917, 1130 (Table 2 in each), and P-20, No. 537. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; U.S. Census Bureau, National Population Projections, Detailed Files (Internet table C1).

Figure PF 1.1

Number of children under age 18 in the United States: 1950-2000, and projected, 2000-2030



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, Nos. 311, 519, 917, 1130 (Table 2 in each), and P-20, No. 537. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; U.S. Census Bureau, National Population Projections, Detailed Files (Internet table C1); and unpublished data, U.S. Census Bureau.

Child Population Characteristics

PF 1.2 Children as a Percentage of the Total Population

Though children represent a smaller proportion of the population today than they did in 1950, they are still a substantial segment of the U.S. population and will remain so in the coming decades. In 2000,¹ children under age 18 made up 26 percent of the population, down from 36 percent in 1960 at the end of the baby boom.

Projections by the U.S. Census Bureau predict that this proportion will drop further—to 24 percent—by the year 2010 and will remain at that level through 2030.

In contrast, the proportion of the population ages 65 and older has increased from 8 percent in 1950 to 13 percent in 2000. That percentage is projected to increase to 20 percent by the year 2030.

Together, children and senior citizens make up the dependent population, that is, those persons considered economically inactive because of their age. Children's share of the dependent population fell from 79 percent in 1960 to 67 percent in 1990, and has remained unchanged since then. That percentage is projected to continue to decline to 54 percent by the year 2030.

Table PF 1.2

Persons in selected age groups as a percentage of the total U.S. population and children under age 18 as a percentage of the dependent population: Selected years, 1950-2000 and projected, 2010-2030

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Projected		
							2010	2020	2030
Percent of total population									
Under age 18	31	36	34	28	26	26	24	24	24
Ages 18-64	61	55	56	61	62	62	63	60	56
Ages 65+	8	9	10	11	13	13	13	17	20
Percent of dependent population^a									
Under age 18	79	79	78	71	67	67	64	59	54

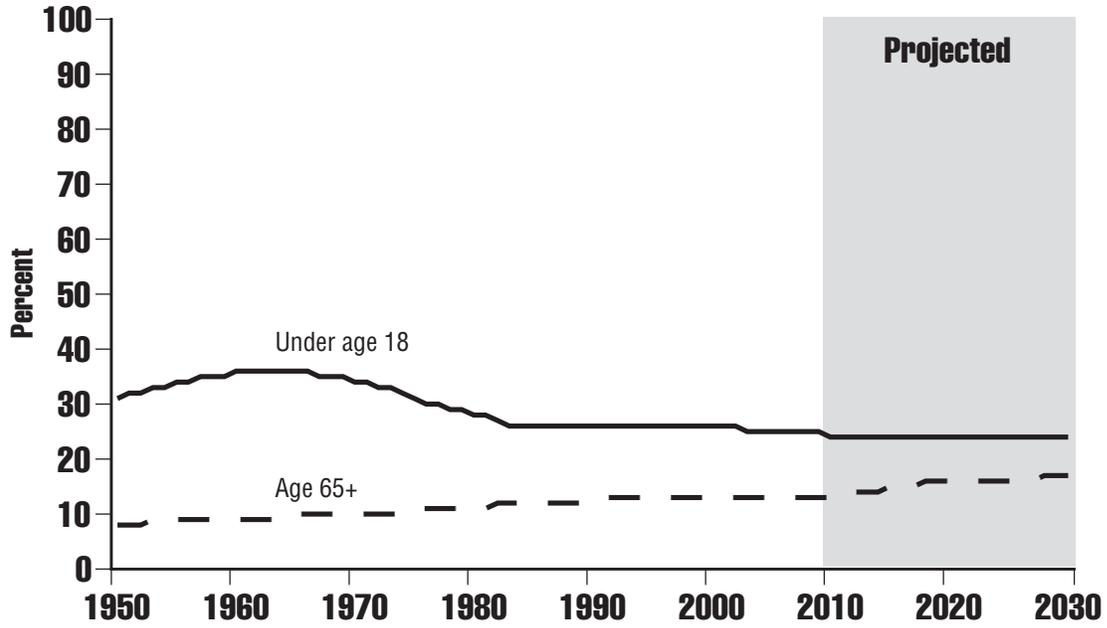
^a The dependent population includes all persons ages 17 and under, and 65 and older.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, Nos. 311, 519, 917, (Table 2 in each); Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

¹ Population numbers for 2000 are based on the 1990 Census.

Figure PF 1.2

Children under age 18 and adults ages 65 and over as a percentage of the U.S. population: 1950-2000, and projected, 2010-2030



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, Nos. 311, 519, 917, (Table 2 in each); Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Child Population Characteristics

PF 1.3 Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Child Population

Increasing racial and ethnic diversity has changed the demographic makeup of the U.S. significantly since 1980, and projections through the year 2030 show continued diversification.

As recently as 1980, Whites, non-Hispanic constituted 74 percent, nearly three-quarters, of the population. A 20 percentage point decrease is predicted through 2030, which indicates the same group will represent just 53 percent of the total U.S. population (see Table PF 1.3).

While the Black, non-Hispanic population has remained steady at 15 percent of the population between 1980 and 2000, the Hispanic population has doubled in size, growing from 5.7 million in 1980 to 11.4 million in 2000. Continued growth is predicted, nearly doubling in size again to 21.5 million by 2030, showing another significant increase in the Hispanic population (see Figure PF 1.3).

The Asian and Pacific Islander population has shown growth, increasing from 2 percent of the population to a projected 7 percent by 2030.

Table PF 1.3

Number and percentage distribution of children under age 18 in the United States, by race and Hispanic origin:^a Selected years, 1980-2000, and projected, 2010-2030

Number (in millions)	1980	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	Projected		
							2010	2020	2030
White, non-Hispanic	47.1	44.2	45.6	45.5	45.5	45.1	42.7	42.4	43.7
Black, non-Hispanic	9.3	9.5	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	11.3	12.2	11.3
Hispanic ^a	5.7	7.9	10.4	10.7	11.1	11.4	13.7	17.2	21.5
Asian/Pacific Islander ^b	1.1	2.0	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	4.0	5.0	5.9
American Indian/ Alaska Native ^b	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Percentage of population	1980	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	Projected		
White, non-Hispanic	74	69	66	65	65	64	59	55	53
Black, non-Hispanic	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	14
Hispanic ^a	9	12	15	15	16	16	19	22	26
Asian/Pacific Islander ^b	2	3	4	4	4	4	6	6	7
American Indian/ Alaska Native ^b	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

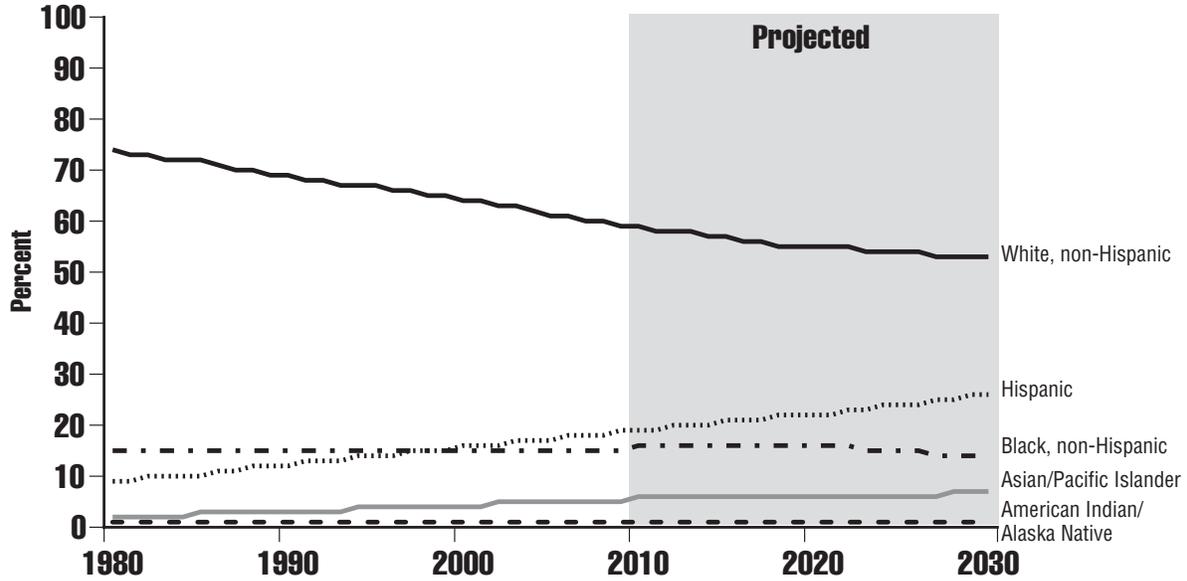
^a Persons of *Hispanic origin* may be of any race.

^b Excludes persons who are of Hispanic origin.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1095 (Table 1), No. 1130 (Table 2), also P-20, No. 537, Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office and detailed Internet table C1, U.S. Census Bureau. Percentage estimates as published in *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2001*. Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, Table POP3; U.S. Census Bureau. 1996. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2000*. No. 18. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Figure PF 1.3

Percentage distribution of children under age 18 in the United States, by race and Hispanic origin:^a 1980-2000, and projected, 2010-2030



^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Estimates for Whites, Blacks, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and American Indian/Alaska Natives exclude persons of Hispanic origin.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1095 (Table 1), No. 1130 (Table 2), also P-20, No. 537, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office and detailed Internet table C1, U.S. Census Bureau, 1996. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2000*, No. 18. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Child Population Characteristics

PF 1.4 Foreign Born Population

The United States is a nation of immigrants with diverse backgrounds. The age, nation of origin, and *family* characteristics of this group are of particular interest to help define the changing needs of the *foreign-born* population. Data for the *Native Population*², U.S. residents who were born in the United States, and U.S. residents who were born in a foreign country but who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen, are used for comparison.

Differences by Age and Gender. The median age of the foreign-born population in 1997 (37 years old), is drastically lower than it was over three decades ago. In 1960, the median age was 57 years old, but has since dropped more than 20 years before leveling off in the 1990s to its current value (see Figure PF 1.4). The opposite trend is seen for the younger age groups. The under 15 and the 15 to 24-year-old populations average age has increased since the 1960s. For children under 15, the average age has grown from 5 to 8 years old. The average population age of foreign-born person ages 15-24 has almost tripled from 5 to 14 years old.

Differences by Region of Birth. The oldest foreign-born persons (average age) were born in Europe while the youngest originated in Mexico (50.8 and 31.5 years respectively). For the Under 18 population, the average age also varied by region of birth. The youngest hailed from Europe and Northern America, while the oldest were born in Mexico (see Table PF 1.4.A).

Difference by Family Type. In 1997, the average size of foreign-born *households*³ was larger than native households, 3.84 versus 3.11 (see Table PF 1.4.B) This trend was seen across all family types, with the greatest difference in family sizes observed in married couple families. Foreign-born and native-born households with a female householder, no husband present, had the closest average family size, (3.36 and 2.98 respectively).

For all family types, both foreign-born and native, the greatest proportion had no children. Of noticeable difference within the family types is that 71 percent of foreign-born households with a male householder, no wife present, had no children, while in the opposite setting of a foreign-born female householder, only 40 percent had no children.

Married couple families of both nativity groups were more likely to have two children versus one child: In foreign-born households, 23 percent had two children, 22 percent had one child, and in native households, 19 percent had two children, and 18 percent had one child.

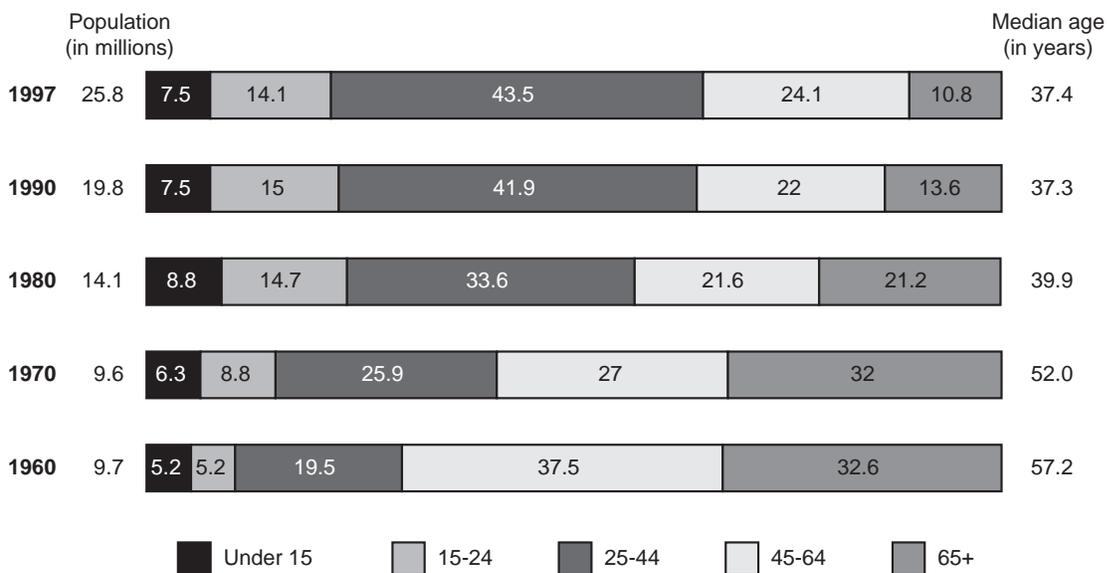
² U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 195. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

³ Households are classified as foreign-born or native based on the nativity of the householder, regardless of the nativity of other household members.

POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

Figure PF 1.4

Age and gender of the foreign-born population, percent distribution by age: 1960-1997^a



^a For 1960–1990, resident population. For 1997, civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 195(Figure 10-3). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Child Population Characteristics

Table PF 1.4.A

Age and gender of the foreign-born population by region of birth: 1997 ^a

	Median Age	Population	Under 18	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+
	(in years)	(in millions)					
Total	37.4	25.8	10.2	11.4	43.5	24.1	10.8
Europe	50.8	4.3	6.3	6.4	27.0	33.8	26.5
Asia	37.7	6.8	9.6	10.4	46.5	25.8	7.8
Africa	35.6	0.6	8.1	12.0	53.4	22.9	3.5
Latin America	34.2	13.1	11.9	14.0	47.3	19.8	7.0
Caribbean	41.7	2.8	8.9	9.4	39.8	27.1	14.8
Central America	31.9	8.8	13.0	16.3	49.8	16.4	4.6
Mexico	31.5	7.0	13.8	16.5	49.1	16.3	4.3
Other	33.6	1.8	9.7	15.2	52.7	16.7	5.7
South America	37.4	1.5	10.7	9.2	46.9	26.2	7.0
Northern America	47.0	0.5	5.6	4.0	37.3	29.5	23.8

^a Civilian noninstitutional population plus Armed Forces living off post or with their families on post.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 195 (Figure 10.2). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Table PF 1.4.B

Families by type, nativity of householder, and number of own children, percent distribution of families by number of own children under 18 years old: 1997

	Average Family Size	No Children	One Child	Two Children	Three or More Children
Total Families	3.19	50.6	20.4	18.9	10.0
Native householder	3.11	51.8	20.1	18.7	9.4
Foreign-born householder	3.84	42.0	22.5	20.9	14.7
Married Couple Families	3.25	53.2	17.7	18.9	10.1
Native householder	3.16	54.9	17.3	18.5	9.3
Foreign-born householder	3.99	39.5	21.5	22.6	16.4
Male householder, no wife present	2.85	55.6	26.1	13.3	5.0
Native householder	2.74	52.8	27.5	14.3	5.4
Foreign-born householder	3.42	70.9	18.3	8.2	2.6
Female householder, no husband present	3.02	38.4	29.9	20.6	11.1
Native householder	2.98	38.3	30.0	20.8	11.0
Foreign-born householder	3.36	39.9	28.6	18.8	12.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 195 (Figure 12-1). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

PF 1.5 Fertility Rates

The *fertility rate* in the United States dropped dramatically between 1960 and 1980 from 118.0 to 68.4 *live births* per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44. The declines occurred in all age groups (see Figure PF 1.5) and among both Whites and Blacks (see Table PF 1.5.A). Fertility rates for Hispanics, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaska Natives were not tabulated separately in 1960. Since 1980, the fertility rate has remained between 65 and 71 live births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44. In 1999, the fertility rate was 65.9 live births per 1,000 women in this age group.

Differences by Age. During the 1960s, age-specific birth rates—the number of births per thousand women in a given age group—were highest among women ages 20 to 24. This pattern began to change during the 1980s as more and more women delayed childbearing. Since 1983, women ages 25 to 29 have had the highest age-specific fertility rates, followed closely by women ages 20 to 24 (see Figure PF 1.5).

There is widespread policy interest in teenage childbearing. Between 1960 and 1985, birth rates for teens ages 15 to 19 dropped from 89.1 to 51.0 per 1,000 teen women. This trend reversed between 1985 and 1991, and the teen birth rate increased to 62.1 per 1,000 teen women. Since 1991, the teen birth rate has again turned downward, declining to 49.6 per 1,000 teen girls by 1999. The birth rate for non-Hispanic Black teens has remained more than twice that of White teens since 1960. In 1999, the birth rate for Black teens ages 15 to 19 was 83.7 per 1,000 girls compared to 34 per 1,000 non-Hispanic White teen girls. The highest teenage childbearing rates, however, are found among Hispanic teens. In 1999, the teen fertility rate among Hispanics was 93.4 for girls ages 15 to 19.

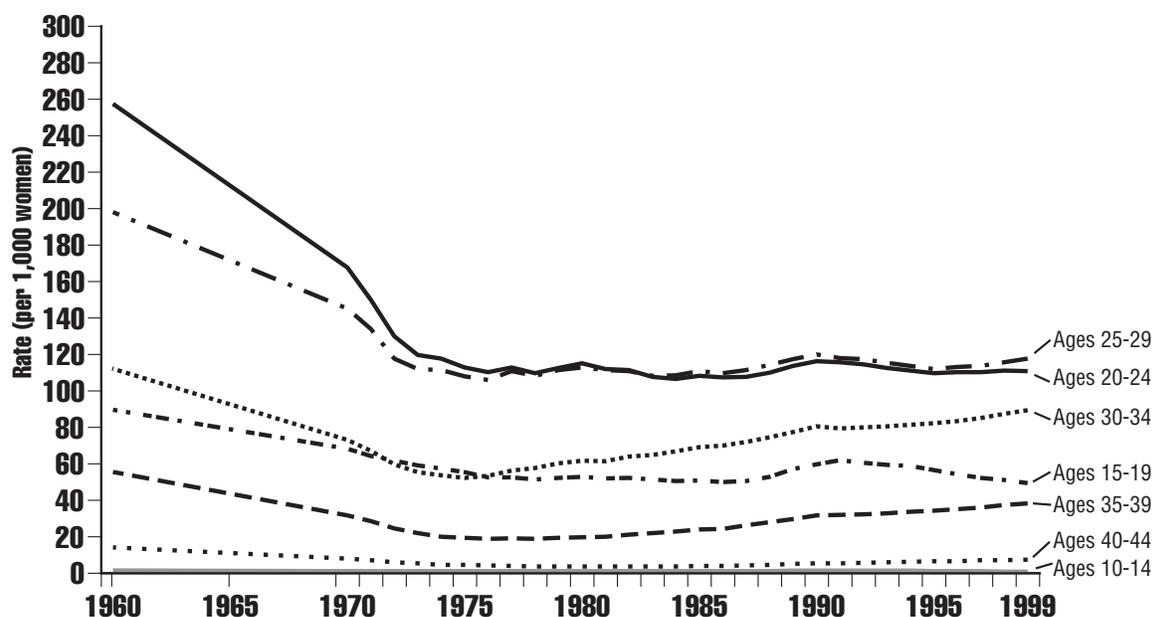
Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁴ In recent years, Hispanic women have had a much higher fertility rate than women from the other race and ethnic groups. In 1999, Hispanic women had 102.0 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44, while White, non-Hispanic, Black, non-Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian/Alaska Native women had between 57.8 and 72.2 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 (see Table PF 1.5.B). There is, however, wide disparity in fertility rates within the Hispanic population. In 1999, the fertility rate for Mexican-origin women was 111.6 compared to 77.7 for Puerto Rican-origin and 51.2 for Cuban-origin women.⁵

⁴ Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

⁵ Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Menoccker, F., and Hamilton, B.E. 2001. Births: Final Data for 1999. *National Vital Statistics Reports* 49(1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Figure PF 1.5

Birth rates by selected age of mother in the United States: 1960-1999



Source: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., Menoccker, F., and Hamilton, B.E. 2001. Births: Final Data for 1999. National Vital Statistics Reports, 49(1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Ventura et al., 2001. Births (Tables 1, 4, and 9).

Table PF 1.5.A

Total fertility rates^a in the United States by race and Hispanic origin (births per 1,000 women): Selected years: 1980-1999

	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
All Races^b	1,839.5	2,081.0	2,019.0	2,027.0	2,032.5	2,058.5	2,075.0
White, non-Hispanic	1,692.0	1,850.5	1,786.5	1,795.5	1,801.0	1,837.0	1,850.0
Black, non-Hispanic	2,353.5	2,547.5	2,245.0	2,204.0	2,210.5	2,235.5	2,212.5
Hispanic	2,534.0	2,959.5	3,019.5	3,047.5	2,999.5	2,947.5	2,985.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,953.5	2,002.5	1,924.0	1,907.5	1,925.5	1,867.5	1,927.0
American Indian/ Alaska Native	2,162.5	2,183.0	2,033.5	2,030.0	2,047.5	2,090.5	2,056.5

^a Total fertility rates are sums of birth rates for 5-year age groups multiplied by 5.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Source: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., Menoccker, F., and Hamilton, B.E. 2001. Births: Final Data for 1999. National Vital Statistics Reports, 49(1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Ventura et al., 2001. Births (Tables 1, 4, and 9).

Child Population Characteristics

Table PF 1.5.B

Fertility rates^a in the United States by race and Hispanic origin and age of mother (births per 1,000 females in each age group): Selected years: 1960-1999

	1960 ^b	1970 ^b	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
All races									
All ages	118.0	87.9	68.4	70.9	65.6	65.3	65.0	65.6	65.9
Ages 10-14	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
Ages 15-19	89.1	68.3	53.0	59.9	56.8	54.4	52.3	51.1	49.6
Ages 15-17	43.9	38.8	32.5	37.5	36.0	33.8	32.1	30.4	28.7
Ages 18-19	166.7	114.7	82.1	88.6	89.1	86.0	83.6	82.0	80.3
Ages 20-24	258.1	167.8	115.1	116.5	109.8	110.4	110.4	111.2	111.0
Ages 25-29	197.4	145.1	112.9	120.2	112.2	113.1	113.8	115.9	117.8
Ages 30-34	112.7	73.3	61.9	80.8	82.5	83.9	85.3	87.4	89.6
Ages 35-39	56.2	31.7	19.8	31.7	34.3	35.3	36.1	37.4	38.3
Ages 40-44	15.5	8.1	3.9	5.5	6.6	6.8	7.1	7.3	7.4
White, non-Hispanic^c									
All ages	—	—	62.4	62.8	57.6	57.3	57.0	57.7	57.8
Ages 10-14	—	—	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Ages 15-19	—	—	41.2	42.5	39.3	37.6	36.0	35.2	34.0
Ages 15-17	—	—	22.4	23.2	22.0	20.6	19.4	18.4	17.1
Ages 18-19	—	—	67.7	66.6	66.1	63.7	61.9	60.6	58.9
Ages 20-24	—	—	105.5	97.5	90.0	90.1	89.8	90.7	89.9
Ages 25-29	—	—	110.6	115.3	106.5	107.0	107.2	109.7	111.0
Ages 30-34	—	—	59.9	79.4	82.0	83.5	85.2	88.0	90.3
Ages 35-39	—	—	17.7	30.0	32.9	34.0	34.9	36.4	37.3
Ages 40-44	—	—	3.0	4.7	5.9	6.2	6.4	6.7	6.8
Black, non-Hispanic^c									
All ages	—	—	90.7	89.0	74.5	72.5	72.4	73.0	72.2
Ages 10-14	—	—	4.6	5.0	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.7
Ages 15-19	—	—	105.1	116.2	99.3	94.2	90.8	88.2	83.7
Ages 15-17	—	—	77.2	84.9	72.1	66.6	62.6	58.8	53.7
Ages 18-19	—	—	146.5	157.5	141.9	136.6	134.0	130.9	126.8
Ages 20-24	—	—	152.2	165.1	141.7	140.9	143.0	146.4	146.3
Ages 25-29	—	—	111.7	118.4	102.0	100.8	101.9	104.6	104.9
Ages 30-34	—	—	65.2	70.2	65.9	64.9	65.8	66.6	66.3
Ages 35-39	—	—	25.8	28.7	29.4	29.7	30.3	31.2	31.5
Ages 40-44	—	—	5.8	5.6	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.8	6.7

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Table PF 1.5.B continued

Fertility rates^a in the United States by race and Hispanic origin and age of mother (births per 1,000 females in each age group): Selected years: 1960-1999

	1960 ^b	1970 ^b	1980	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Hispanic^c									
All ages	—	—	95.4	107.7	105.0	104.9	102.8	101.1	102.0
Ages 10-14	—	—	1.7	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.0
Ages 15-19	—	—	82.2	100.3	106.7	101.8	97.4	93.6	93.4
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	65.9	72.9	69.0	66.3	62.3	61.3
Ages 18-19	—	—	126.9	147.7	157.9	151.1	144.3	140.1	139.4
Ages 20-24	—	—	156.4	181.0	188.5	189.5	184.2	178.4	178.7
Ages 25-29	—	—	132.1	153.0	153.8	161.0	161.7	160.2	163.1
Ages 30-34	—	—	83.2	98.3	95.9	98.1	97.9	98.9	102.2
Ages 35-39	—	—	39.9	45.3	44.9	45.1	45.0	44.9	46.2
Ages 40-44	—	—	10.6	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.8	10.7
Asian/Pacific Islander									
All ages	—	—	73.2	69.6	66.4	65.9	66.3	64.0	65.6
Ages 10-14	—	—	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
Ages 15-19	—	—	26.2	26.4	26.1	24.6	23.7	23.1	22.3
Ages 15-17	—	—	12.0	16.0	15.4	14.9	14.3	13.8	12.3
Ages 18-19	—	—	46.2	40.2	43.4	40.4	39.3	38.3	38.0
Ages 20-24	—	—	93.3	79.2	72.4	70.7	70.5	68.8	70.0
Ages 25-29	—	—	127.4	126.3	113.4	111.2	113.2	110.4	116.4
Ages 30-34	—	—	96.0	106.5	106.9	109.2	110.3	105.1	109.3
Ages 35-39	—	—	38.3	49.6	52.4	52.2	54.1	52.8	54.6
Ages 40-44	—	—	8.5	10.7	12.1	12.2	11.9	12.0	11.6
American Indian									
All ages	—	—	82.7	76.2	69.1	68.7	69.1	70.7	69.7
Ages 10-14	—	—	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
Ages 15-19	—	—	82.2	81.1	78.0	73.9	71.8	72.1	67.8
Ages 15-17	—	—	51.5	48.5	47.8	46.4	45.3	44.4	41.4
Ages 18-19	—	—	129.5	129.3	130.7	122.3	117.6	118.4	110.6
Ages 20-24	—	—	143.7	148.7	132.5	133.9	134.9	139.3	137.1
Ages 25-29	—	—	106.6	110.3	98.4	98.5	100.8	102.2	102.4
Ages 30-34	—	—	61.8	61.5	62.2	63.2	64.2	66.3	64.3
Ages 35-39	—	—	28.1	27.5	27.7	28.5	29.3	30.2	30.7
Ages 40-44	—	—	8.2	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.4	7.1

^a Fertility rates computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to women ages 15 to 44.

^b Based on a 50 percent sample of births

^c Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. 1980 data for Hispanics include 22 states. 1990 data for Hispanics include 48 states and District of Columbia — they exclude data for New Hampshire and Oklahoma, which did not report Hispanic origin.

Source: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., Menacker, F., and Hamilton, B.E. 2001. Births: Final Data for 1999. National Vital Statistics Reports, 49(1). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Ventura et al., 2001. Births (Tables 1, 4, and 9).

Child Population Characteristics

PF 1.6 Number of Births

In 1999, there were nearly 4.0 million births in the United States. Twenty-seven percent of the births were to women ages 25 to 29, 25 percent were to women 20 to 24, and 23 percent were to women 30 to 34 years of age. The percentage of births occurring to older women (those 30 and older) has increased since the mid-1980s. In 1980, 20 percent of all births were to women ages 30 and older. In 1999, the proportion of all births to women age 30 and older had increased to 36 percent. About 60 percent of all births were to White, non-Hispanic women, 15 percent to Black women⁶, and 20 percent to women of Hispanic origin (see Table PF 1.6).

Most births are to women who have at least a high school degree. In 1999, 22 percent of births were to women who had less than a high school education, 32 percent were to *high school graduates*, and 46 percent were to women with one or more years of college (see Table PF 1.6).

⁶ Including Hispanics.

POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 1.6

Percentage of births in the United States by mother's age, race and Hispanic origin, and education level: Selected years, 1990-1999

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total number	4,158,212	3,899,589	3,891,494	3,880,894	3,941,553	3,959,417
Age of mother						
Ages 15-19	13%	13%	13%	13%	12%	12%
Ages 20-24	26	25	24	24	24	25
Ages 25-29	31	27	28	28	27	27
Ages 30-34	21	23	23	23	23	23
Ages 35-39	8	10	10	11	11	11
Ages 40-44	1	2	2	2	2	2
Race and Hispanic origin						
White, non-Hispanic	64	61	61	60	60	60
Black, non-Hispanic	16	15	15	15	15	15
Hispanic ^a	14	17	18	18	19	20
Education level						
Less than high school	24	22	22	22	22	22
Completed high school	38	34	33	32	33	32
Some college	20	22	22	22	22	22
Four + years of college	18	21	22	22	23	24

^a Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Births by Hispanic origin are based on 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; and 50 states and the District of Columbia in 1995 through 1997.

Sources: Ventura et al., 2001, Births, (Tables 2, 7, 21); Ventura et al., 2000, Births, (Tables 17, 18, 19 and 21); Ventura et al., 1999, Births, (Tables 2, 17, and 21); Ventura et al., Natality 1996; Ventura et al., 1997, (Tables 2, 6, and 21); Ventura et al., 1997, Natality 1995, (Tables 2, 6, 14, and 18); National Center for Health Statistics, 1994, *Vital Statistics*, (Table 1-35); also, 1985, (Table 1-54), 1980, (Table 1-54), and 1970 editions of this annual report; National Center for Health Statistics, 1987. Natality, *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 36(4, Supp), (Table 2), and *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 31(8, Supp.), (Table 2); Ventura, 1983, (Table 2); Center for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, 1974, (Table 2).

PF 1.7 Percentage of All Births to Unmarried Women

Children who are born to single women, regardless of the age of the women, are considerably more likely than children born to *two parents* to grow up poor, to spend large portions of their childhood without two parents, and to become single parents themselves.⁷ Bearing children outside of marriage is a particularly troubling development for teenagers because these young women often have little education and lack the ability to support their families economically, especially as single parents.

Differences by Age. Nonmarital childbearing increased among women of all age groups between 1960 and 1994 before dropping off modestly in 1995.

However, nonmarital births as a percent of all births have increased among teens since 1960 (see Figures PF 1.7.A and B). Among all young women ages 15 through 19, 15 percent of births were nonmarital in 1960, compared with 79 percent in 1999. The percentage of births to teens that occurred outside of marriage rose fairly steadily through 1999; however, the rather sharp increase between 1993 and 1994 (from 71 to 76 percent) is largely the result of improvements in the identification of nonmarital births in two states: Texas and Michigan.⁸

Differences by Race and Hispanic Origin.⁹ The percentage of all births to unmarried women increased for Whites, American Indians, and Hispanics between 1980 and 1999 (see Table PF 1.7.A). The percentage increased steadily for Black women between 1980 and 1995 and has declined slightly since. Asian women have experienced a steady increase in the percentage of all births to unmarried women from 1980 to 1996, but the percentage decreased in 1997 and was unchanged in 1998.

In 1999, Asian and White women had the lowest percentage of nonmarital births at 15.4 and 22.1 percent, respectively. Hispanics were next at 42.2 percent, followed by American Indian and Black women at 58.9 percent and 69.1 percent, respectively. This ordering is the same for most age groups, though the size of the difference can vary substantially by the age of the mother. For young women ages 15 through 19 in 1999, for example, Whites and Hispanics have very similar percentages of births to unmarried women—72.6 and 72.9 percent, respectively—while the percentage among young Black women ages 15 through 19 is much higher at 95.6 percent. By ages 25 through 29, however, percentages for Hispanic women move midway between White and Black rates, with Whites at 13.8 percent, Hispanics at 32.1 percent, and Blacks at 57.0 percent (see Table PF 1.7.A).

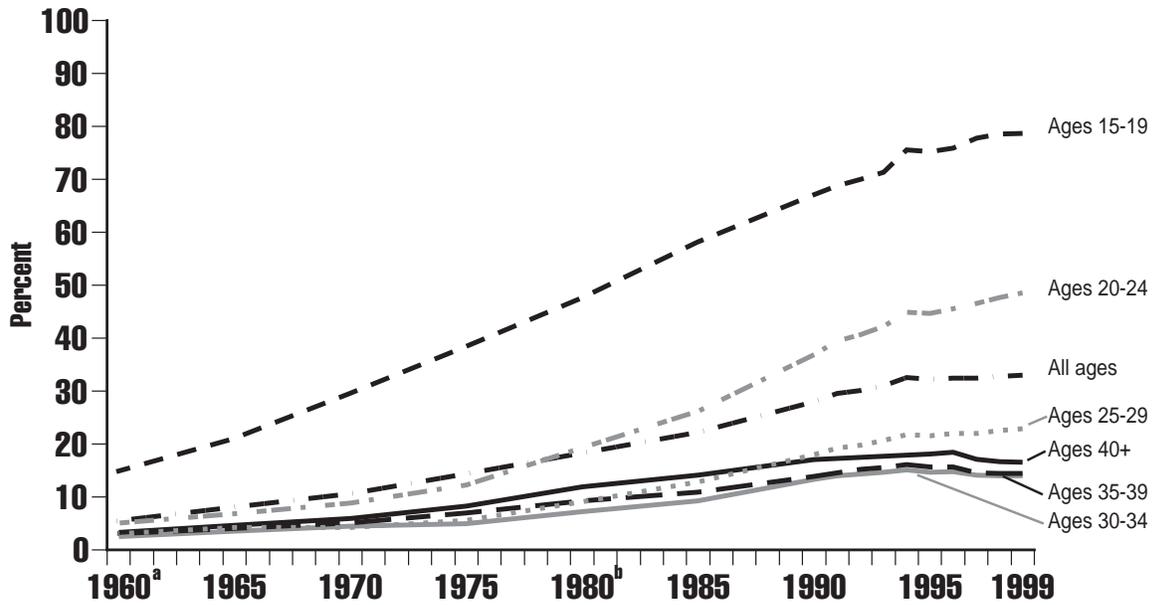
⁷ McLanahan, S. & Sandefur, G., 1996. *Growing Up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*. Harvard University Press.

⁸ Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Mathews, T.J., & Clarke, S.C. 1996. Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994. *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, 44, (11, Supp.). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; Ventura, S.J. and Bachrach, C.A., 2000. Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940–1999. *National Vital Statistics Report*, 48, (16). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

⁹ Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the non-White parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White. Data for Black and White births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are not included. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

Figure PF 1.7.A

Percentage of all births to unmarried^a women in the United States, by age: 1960-1999



^a Births to unmarried women are estimated for the United States from data for registration areas in which marital status of mother was reported for data 1960-1979.

^b Data for states in which marital status was not reported have been inferred from other items on the birth certificate for data 1980-1999.

Sources: Ventura and Bachrach., 2000. *Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-1999*; *National Vital Statistics Report*, 48(16). (Table 4), Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Ventura et al., 2001, *Births*, (Table 17).

Child Population Characteristics

Table PF 1.7.A

Percentage of all live births to unmarried women in the United States, by race and Hispanic origin and by age: Selected years, 1960-1999

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980 ^b	1985	1990 ^a	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
All races												
All ages	5.3	7.7	10.7	14.3	18.4	22.0	28.0	32.2	32.4	32.4	32.8	33.0
Ages 15-19	14.8	20.8	29.5	38.2	47.6	58.0	67.1	75.2	75.9	77.8	78.5	78.7
Ages 20-24	4.8	6.8	8.9	12.3	19.4	26.3	36.9	44.7	45.6	46.6	47.7	48.5
Ages 25-29	2.9	4.0	4.1	5.4	9.0	12.7	18.0	21.5	22.0	22.0	22.5	22.9
Ages 30-34	2.8	3.7	4.5	5.3	7.5	9.7	13.3	14.7	14.8	14.1	14.0	14.0
Ages 35-39	3.0	4.0	5.2	7.0	9.4	11.2	13.9	15.7	15.7	14.6	14.4	14.4
40 and over	3.1	4.3	5.7	8.2	12.1	14.0	17.0	18.1	18.4	17.1	16.7	16.5
White^a												
All ages	2.3	4.0	5.7	7.3	11.2	14.7	16.9	21.2	21.5	21.5	21.9	22.1
Ages 15-19	7.2	11.4	17.1	22.9	33.1	44.8	55.6	67.9	69.3	70.9	71.9	72.6
Ages 20-24	2.2	3.8	5.2	6.1	11.7	17.7	24.5	33.3	34.4	35.3	36.4	37.2
Ages 25-29	1.1	1.9	2.1	2.6	5.2	8.1	9.7	12.7	13.2	13.3	13.6	13.8
Ages 30-34	1.0	1.6	2.1	2.7	4.6	6.3	6.9	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	7.8
Ages 35-39	1.3	1.9	2.7	3.9	6.4	8.1	7.8	9.4	9.6	8.8	8.8	8.7
40 and over	1.6	2.2	3.3	4.6	8.6	10.9	10.9	12.2	12.5	10.9	10.9	10.7
Black^a												
All ages	—	—	37.6	48.8	56.1	61.2	66.7	70.0	70.0	69.4	69.3	69.1
Ages 15-19	—	—	62.7	76.9	85.7	90.2	92.1	95.3	95.5	95.8	95.8	95.6
Ages 20-24	—	—	31.3	43.0	57.0	65.4	72.8	79.3	79.9	80.0	80.5	80.7
Ages 25-29	—	—	20.3	26.8	36.8	45.2	53.4	56.8	57.5	56.9	57.1	57.0
Ages 30-34	—	—	19.6	24.1	29.6	37.0	45.2	46.5	45.6	44.1	43.6	43.3
Ages 35-39	—	—	18.6	23.9	28.4	35.1	42.1	45.3	44.2	42.5	41.6	40.9
40 and over	—	—	18.3	23.1	29.5	34.4	40.0	43.5	43.4	43.0	41.9	41.9
Hispanic^b												
All ages	—	—	—	—	23.6	29.5	36.7	40.8	40.7	40.9	41.6	42.2
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	41.9	51.3	59.4	67.3	67.7	71.6	72.9	72.9
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	—	23.8	30.9	39.6	45.0	45.2	46.1	47.5	48.6
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	—	15.9	22.2	28.6	31.1	31.2	30.4	31.2	32.1
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	—	15.2	19.6	25.5	26.4	26.0	24.6	24.4	25.1
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	—	16.2	20.8	26.5	27.4	26.9	25.7	24.7	25.4
40 and over	—	—	—	—	15.9	20.2	28.9	29.4	29.6	27.9	27.5	27.3
Asian/Pacific Islander^a												
All ages	—	—	—	—	7.3	9.5	13.2	16.3	16.7	15.6	15.6	15.4
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	40.6	47.7	57.0	63.1	62.7	72.0	72.1	71.4
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	—	10.9	15.5	23.5	30.1	31.0	31.8	32.4	33.0
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	—	4.2	5.7	8.3	12.1	12.9	11.5	11.4	11.4
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	—	3.0	4.6	6.3	8.0	8.9	6.6	6.4	6.4
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	—	4.0	5.8	7.5	8.9	9.2	6.9	6.5	6.8
40 and over	—	—	—	—	3.6	8.0	10.0	10.8	10.7	10.1	9.4	8.6

POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 1.7.A continued

Percentage of all live births to unmarried women in the United States, by race and Hispanic origin and by age: Selected years, 1960-1999

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980 ^b	1985	1990 ^a	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
American Indian/ Alaska Native^a												
All ages	—	—	—	—	39.2	46.8	53.6	57.2	58.0	58.7	59.3	58.9
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	61.9	72.5	78.9	82.5	84.1	84.4	85.9	85.9
Ages 20-24	—	—	—	—	38.6	48.5	57.2	60.7	61.7	63.2	63.3	64.0
Ages 25-29	—	—	—	—	28.1	35.9	43.2	45.7	46.4	47.3	47.6	47.3
Ages 30-34	—	—	—	—	22.2	31.8	38.3	40.6	41.4	41.2	42.0	39.7
Ages 35-39	—	—	—	—	22.5	27.7	35.5	40.6	40.1	40.3	41.1	39.5
40 and over	—	—	—	—	21.3	28.4	37.5	38.9	43.0	45.6	38.2	42.0

^a Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the non-White parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White. Data for Black and White births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are not included.

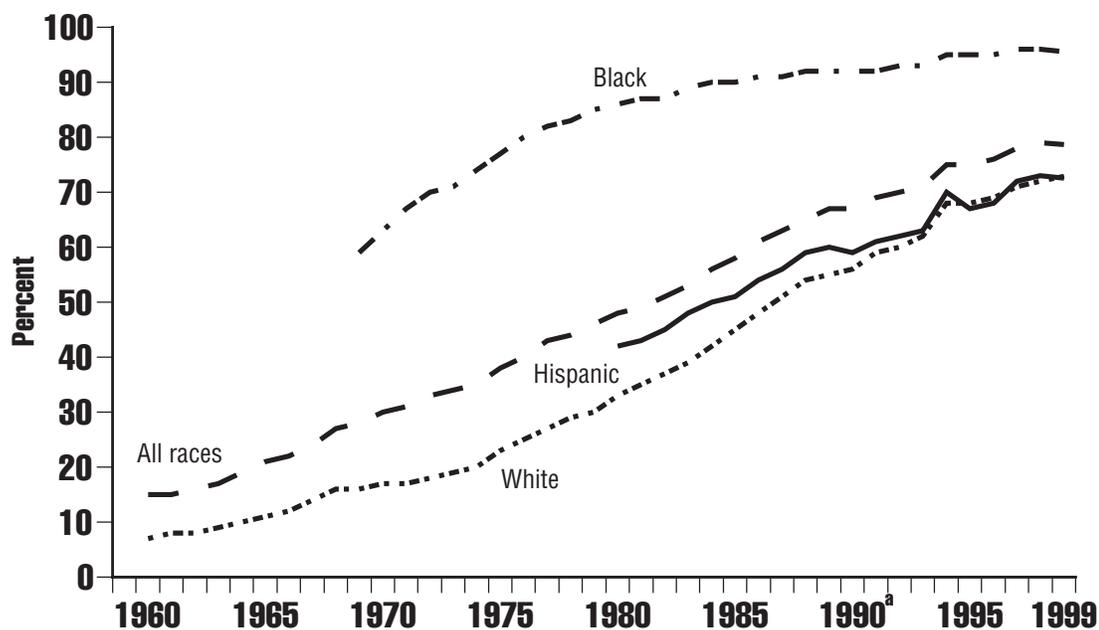
^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

Sources: Ventura and Bachrach, 2000. (Table 4); Ventura et al., 2000. Births, (Table 17); Ventura et al., 1999, Births, (Table 17); Ventura et al., 1998, Natality, (Table 17). Also previous issues of this annual report (Volume 45, no. 11; Volume 44, no. 11; Volume 44, no. 3); Ventura, 1995, (Table 5); Ventura, Births, 1985, (Tables 6 and 7); Ventura, 1983, (Table 11).

Child Population Characteristics

Figure PF 1.7.B

Percentage of all births to unmarried women ages 15 through 19 in the United States, by race^a and Hispanic origin:^b 1960-1999



^a Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning to the child the race of the non-White parent, or to the race of the father, if both were non-White. Data for Black and White births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are not included.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

Sources: Ventura et al., 2001, Births, (Table 17); Ventura & Bachrach, 2000, (Table 4); Ventura et al., 2000 Births, (Tables 2, 7, and 17); Ventura et al., 1999, Births, (Table 17); Ventura, 1995, (Table 5); also unpublished data, National Center for Health Statistics.

POPULATION, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORHOOD

Table PF 1.7.B

Percentage of all births to unmarried women ages 15 through 19 in the United States, by age of mother and by race^a and Hispanic origin: Selected years, 1960-1999

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990 ^a	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
All races												
Ages 15-19	15	21	30	38	48	58	67	75	76	78	79	79
Ages 15-17	24	33	43	51	62	71	78	84	84	87	88	88
Ages 18 or 19	11	15	22	30	40	51	61	70	71	73	74	74
White^a												
Ages 15-19	7	11	17	23	33	45	56	68	69	71	72	73
Ages 15-17	12	17	25	33	45	58	68	79	81	83	83	85
Ages 18 or 19	5	9	14	17	27	38	50	62	64	65	67	68
Black^a												
Ages 15-19	—	—	63	77	86	90	92	95	96	96	96	96
Ages 15-17	—	—	76	87	93	96	96	98	98	98	98	98
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	52	68	80	86	90	93	94	94	94	94
Hispanic^b												
Ages 15-19	—	—	—	—	42	51	59	67	68	72	73	73
Ages 15-17	—	—	—	—	51	61	68	75	75	80	82	82
Ages 18 or 19	—	—	—	—	36	46	54	62	63	66	67	67

^a Beginning in 1980, births were tabulated by race and ethnicity of the mother. Prior to 1980, births were tabulated by race of child, assigning a child to the race of the non-White parent, if any, or to the race of the father, if both are non-White. Data for Black and White births include births of Hispanic origin until 1990. Beginning 1990, persons of Hispanic origin are not included.

^b Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Data for Hispanics have been available only since 1980, with 22 states reporting in 1980, representing 90 percent of the Hispanic population. Hispanic birth data were reported by 23 states and the District of Columbia in 1985; 48 states and the District of Columbia in 1990; 49 states and the District of Columbia in 1991 and 1992; and all 50 states and the District of Columbia since 1993.

Sources: Ventura et al., 2001, Births (Tables 2, 7, and 17); Ventura et al., 2000, Births (Tables 2, 7, and 17); Ventura et al., 1999, (Table 17); Ventura and Curtin, 1999, (Table 3); Ventura, 1995, (Table 5).